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The  
Works Progress Administration's  
Nation-wide  
Staff Meeting of the Air





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# WPA Radio Round-Table

*The Time:* 4-4:30 p. m., June 20, 1936

*The Place:* 61 N. B. C. Radio Stations



MR. AUBREY WILLIAMS  
*Director, National Youth  
Administration*



MR. HARRY L. HOPKINS  
*Works Progress Administrator*



MRS. ELLEN S. WOODWARD  
*Assistant Administrator,  
Women's Activities*



COL. F. C. HARRINGTON  
*Assistant Administrator,  
Chief Engineer*



MR. CORRINGTON GILL  
*Assistant Administrator,  
Finance*



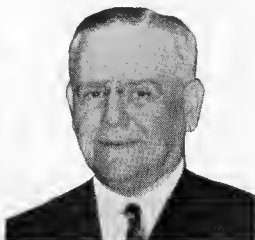
MR. THAD HOLT  
*Assistant Administrator,  
Labor Relations*



*Left—*  
MR. HENRY S. DENNISON  
*President Dennison  
Manufacturing Co.*  
*Right—*  
MISS FANNIE HURST  
*Author*



*Left—*  
GOV. GEORGE H. EARLE  
*of Pennsylvania*  
*Right—*  
MR. CHESTER GRAY  
*American Farm Bureau  
Federation*



*Above—*  
MR. ROBERT DUNHAM  
*Illinois State Works Progress  
Administrator*



*Left—*  
MRS. ANNA BROWN  
*Sewing project worker*  
*Right—*  
MAYOR ANGELO ROSSI  
*of San Francisco*



*Left—*  
MR. FRED A. WRIGHT  
*Project worker*  
*Right—*  
MR. WILLIS PECK  
*Worker on National Youth  
Administration project*





*Over 6,000,000 hands—young and old—are busily engaged in the 100,000 WPA projects now in operation throughout the United States. These projects offer the opportunity of personal rehabilitation to the individual as well as important physical improvement to the community.*

# WPA Staff Meeting

**Announcer:** The Works Progress Administration invites you to attend an informal staff meeting of the air. This staff meeting is being held to advise our administrative staff, our WPA workers, and the general public, just how the new funds for the Works Program are to be expended during the coming year. In the discussion to follow, we will hear answers to such questions as:

Who is eligible for a WPA job?

Will those who have WPA jobs be able to keep them?

What wages will WPA workers receive—security wage or the prevailing wage?

How will WPA affect the local community; the county; the city; the State?

What effect will it have on the business man; the farmer; the man who supplies materials; the white-collar worker; the youth of the country?

To answer all these pertinent questions, Mr. Harry L. Hopkins, Administrator of the Works Progress Administration, has come here today with several members of his staff.

Mr. Hopkins has also invited Governor George H. Earle of Pennsylvania, Mayor Angelo Rossi of San Francisco, Mr. Henry S. Dennison of the Dennison Manufacturing Co., Miss Fannie Hurst, noted author, and Mr. Chester Gray, Washington representative of the American Farm Bureau Federation, as well as several WPA workers, to attend this informal staff meeting.

I now turn the microphone over to your WPA Administrator, Mr. Hopkins.

**Mr. Hopkins:** Good afternoon! As you know, Congress has just appropriated additional funds so that the Works Program can continue for the unemployed. At this meeting we will discuss the future of the Works Program.

Incidentally, this is the first time I have had the pleasure of being able to talk to all of our staff at once. Also, I feel sure that there are many millions of people whose daily lives are vitally affected by this program, joining with us in this meeting.

Let's get going—here is Mayor Angelo Rossi, a member of the executive committee of the Conference of Mayors of the United States, and mayor of San Francisco, the city by the Golden Gate. He will give us the point of view of local officials throughout this country. Mayor Rossi has done a swell job in cooperating with us in our program, and his city has done some of the finest WPA projects in America.

**Mayor Rossi:** Thank you, Mr. Hopkins. We mayors and local officials are closer to the problem of unemployment than any other group in the country. I have several questions, on which, however, I am not at all sure we will see eye to eye.

My first question is this: If we can't provide work for all of our able-bodied unemployed, can we give them direct relief and send the bill to you?

**Mr. Hopkins:** No, Mr. Mayor. The WPA is using all of its funds for the Works Program. Any direct relief is provided by the State of California or the city of San Francisco.

**Mayor Rossi:** This is a hard job, but you are right! In our part of the country we believe that every able-bodied citizen should be gainfully employed at prevailing wages. That is what we have done, and what will always be done with your cooperation.

**Mr. Hopkins:** I know you will, Mayor Rossi; you have done it in the past. What are those other questions of yours?

**Mayor Rossi:** You said we must have work projects. Must we also have a lot of red tape to get them going?

**Mr. Hopkins:** We don't like red tape any better than you do. Colonel Harrington, of the Army Engineers, Assistant Administrator in charge of engineering operations, will tell you about the continuation of your present projects and the submission of new ones.

**Colonel Harrington:** Fortunately, Mr. Mayor, the law for the extension of the program provides that work on projects which have already been approved can be continued without resubmission of those projects to Washington. Enough projects have already been approved to keep the work going. New projects must be originated by local communities and submitted just as they have been. I do not think any of us need worry about red tape now.

**Mr. Gray** (interrupting): Excuse me, Colonel Harrington, I do not want you to get away before I ask the one question on projects in which the farmers are primarily interested.

**Mr. Hopkins** (interrupting): Ladies and gentlemen, this is Mr. Chester Gray, who is Washington representative of the American Farm Bureau Federation. Go right ahead, Mr. Gray.

**Mr. Gray:** What my people want to know about is roads. We know that WPA has already built or improved more than 125,000 miles of farm-to-market roads. Will you continue to do this kind of work?

**Colonel Harrington:** Mr. Gray, we consider road projects among the most desirable that we have, but we have to treat them just like all other projects. If we are going to build a country road the county or other local subdivision has got to cooperate with us to the extent of requesting

the project, and paying a fair amount of its cost. We also have to have relief labor available within reasonable distance of the job. Wherever these two conditions are met, we can build the road and are glad to do so.

More of our work goes on roads than on any other single type of project.

**Mr. Hopkins:** Does that answer your question, Mr. Gray?

**Mr. Gray:** Yes, it does. I think you have done some fine work building farm-to-market roads. Now here is another question that you may not like so well. There is a lot of talk in the newspapers every spring and fall to the effect that the farmers cannot get help because the Government overpays the workers on its projects.

**Mr. Hopkins:** I am glad you raised that question. You are by no means the first one to do it—it is a tough one. There have been some cases where reputable farmers paying decent wages could not get help because of relief work. But on the other hand, there have been many cases where



*Millions of garments are being made for destitute families by more than 200,000 women workers in WPA sewing rooms. Over 400,000 women are employed in the total program, on projects covering nursing, cooking, teaching, sewing, the arts and many other services.*

farmers have raised a terrible rumpus because we did not kick unfortunate people off the jobs so that they might hire them at starvation wages. However, on both sides of this question there has actually been a lot more smoke than fire.

**Mr. Gray** (interrupting) : But what are you people going to do, Mr. Hopkins, when fellows refuse a decent farm wage, and you know sometimes they do?

**Mr. Hopkins**: If a farmer can't get hands, he should state his case to his own local WPA officials, because they have already been instructed that nobody is to have a WPA job who has refused private employment at a fair wage. You can be equally sure, though, that we are not going to kick anybody out of these low-paid jobs just so some bird can get a lot of cheap labor. And that goes not only for the farmer, but for any private employer.

**Mr. Gray**: Well, that sounds fair enough, Mr. Hopkins.

**Mr. Hopkins**: The gentleman sitting across from me is very much interested in this discussion, and it looks as if he had a question.

**Mr. Wright**: I do have a question, Mr. Hopkins.

**Mr. Hopkins**: Won't you come forward and tell us who you are?

**Mr. Wright**: My name is Fred A. Wright. I live at 347 L Street SW., Washington, D. C. I'm 43 years old and married and have five children. My work is on project No. 82.

**Mr. Hopkins**: Then you represent the 2,500,000 people on WPA projects?

**Mr. Wright**: I don't know about that, Mr. Hopkins, but what I want to know is—do I keep my own job?

**Mr. Hopkins**: Well, you do represent them, because I am sure that is the question in every worker's mind.

**Mr. Wright**: You got me there—it is sure number one with me.

**Mr. Hopkins**: Mr. Thad Holt, Assistant Administrator in charge of employment, will answer that question.

**Mr. Holt**: Well, Mr. Wright, the new law indicates that these jobs are for those in actual need. We in Washington don't decide who is in need; that is done by local people in each community throughout the country. But while we in Washington do not decide who gets the job, I am safe in saying that with a situation like yours, you will keep your job.

**Mr. Dunham**: Mr. Hopkins, may I bring out a point there?

**Mr. Hopkins**: The question is asked by Mr. Robert Dunham, our State Administrator from Illinois. Go ahead, Mr. Dunham.

**Mr. Dunham**: Mr. Holt's answer is all right as far as it goes when he says you have to be in need to get on the pay roll. I want to add for all the State administrators that to stay on the pay roll you have to do good work.





*More than 550 airports and landing fields have been constructed or improved with WPA labor, besides many thousands of cities identified by air-markers. The diagonal runways shown above were added to the Floyd Bennett Airport in New York by WPA workers.*

We will not tolerate any loafing. If a man loafs on the job we don't hesitate to fire him.

**Mr. Wright:** I have heard you were going to start to pay prevailing rates. Is that so, Mr. Holt?

**Mr. Holt:** Yes, Mr. Wright, the WPA workers will be paid the rate per hour which prevails in their community for the class of work they do.

**Mr. Wright:** Will we work as many hours as we do now?

**Mr. Holt:** No, not necessarily. You will work enough hours per month to earn the monthly wage you are now getting.

**Mr. Wright:** I am getting \$51 a month now. Do you mean that I will continue to get \$51 but I will work less hours?

**Mr. Holt:** That is right in your case. It may, however, work the other way under some conditions.

**Mr. Dunham** (interrupting): Mr. Hopkins, may I interrupt—will you people in Washington determine what the prevailing rate of pay is for a given locality?

**Mr. Hopkins:** Certainly not, Mr. Dunham. Local people are better informed about what the hourly rates are for the particular jobs in their community.

**Mr. Dunham:** But who will decide the rate of pay for the particular jobs, Mr. Holt?

**Mr. Holt:** State WPA Administrators, like you, Mr. Dunham, will gather the necessary facts to set the rates at once in order to get going. If the workers, or the employers in private industry, or the unions, think a mistake has been made in setting any particular rate, they will be heard.

**Mr. Wright:** Maybe I ought not to bring this up, Mr. Hopkins, but I have heard a lot of the fellows talking about it and we all want to know about it—do we have to donate to anybody's campaign or join any kind of clubs to keep our jobs?

**Mr. Hopkins:** Absolutely not, Mr. Wright. I want to make this perfectly clear. No one has to make a political contribution to get or keep a WPA job. No one has to promise to support any particular candidate. No one has to belong to any political party. This goes for administrative employees as well as project workers.

Now let's move on to another point. I would like to hear from Mr. Henry Dennison, president of the Dennison Manufacturing Co. in Framingham, Mass.

**Mr. Dennison:** I have been greatly interested in your discussion this afternoon, Mr. Hopkins. All business men think that the unemployed should be taken care of, but with business picking up, we cannot see why the relief rolls do not shrink faster. Can you explain this paradox?

**Mr. Hopkins:** If you don't mind, I will ask Mr. Corrington Gill, Assistant Administrator, to answer your question.

**Mr. Gill:** One would naturally expect, Mr. Dennison, some lag between reemployment and the number on relief. We know that there are many unemployed who are not on relief rolls. These unemployed have been maintained by relatives and friends, by accumulated savings and by part-time jobs. In general, those unemployed not on relief rolls are the ones who get the first call when industry needs men.

**Mr. Dennison:** Oh, yes. I see. We find, too, Mr. Gill, that many of the unemployed not on the relief rolls, who have been getting along on accumulated savings, are ultimately forced to apply for relief when their resources are finally depleted.

**Mr. Gill:** That's true, Mr. Dennison. Of course, from a *long-term* standpoint, labor-saving devices in industry permit a greater volume of goods to be produced with a smaller number of workers per unit of output. There are indications that these improvements are going ahead rapidly at the present time. This means that workers are being displaced or that those who are already out of work are not being reemployed as rapidly as production



*Working mothers "park" 76,000 children such as these each day at the WPA nursery schools. They are cared for by WPA workers. Hundreds of thousands of school children are served daily with hot lunches prepared by 12,000 WPA women workers. In some cases this is the only hot meal the child receives during the day.*

increases. The Works Progress Administration is making a thorough study of this problem at the present time.

**Mr. Dennison:** I am afraid many business men have overlooked these points—but what about the high administrative cost of running a work program?

**Mr. Gill:** The administrative cost of WPA is less than 4 percent. I wouldn't call that very high, Mr. Dennison.

**Mr. Dennison.** That is surprising, Mr. Gill. However, American business men are also greatly concerned with the total cost of a work program as compared with direct relief.

**Mr. Gill:** It is true that a work program costs more than direct relief. However, the difference is much less than is generally believed. A large part of the extra expense goes for the purchase of materials from American business. The value of the projects as a permanent benefit to the country must also be considered. We have carried on over 90,000 projects which local people requested for the improvement of their communities. An

intangible asset of utmost value is the maintenance of the work habits of all these 2½ million WPA workers.

**Mr. Dennison:** What about the criticisms of the efficiency of your work?

**Mr. Gill:** Mr. Dunham has already told you that inefficient workers will be discharged. Now about the projects, Colonel Harrington, as an Army engineer, would you care to make a statement about the efficiency of the projects? You know more about this than anyone in the country.

**Colonel Harrington:** I will be glad to, Mr. Gill. We have made studies as to the relative efficiency of WPA work on construction projects. In some cases we can do work as efficiently as contractors. There are, however, two principal handicaps that we have to overcome. The first is that the amount of labor-saving equipment that we can have on a job is necessarily limited, if we are to give maximum employment. The second is that we have had to do a great deal of training of our workers, whereas contractors generally use men who have worked for them before and do not need to be trained.

**Mr. Dennison:** Now for my last question. Who handles all the money, Mr. Gill?



*Over 128,000 miles of farm-to-market roads have been built or improved by WPA workers. Millions of farmers, thus lifted out of the mud, have better*

*access to the markets. No populations have profited more from the WPA road-building program. Hazardous s*

**Mr. Gill:** The United States Treasury handles all the money. They also do all the buying, and keep the accounts. They buy everything (locally, if possible), under competitive bid, including steel, cement, lumber, as well as cotton textiles for our sewing rooms.

**Mr. Hopkins:** That last item, cotton textiles, brings up the fact that we buy a lot of materials for women's projects, because we are employing more than 400,000 women, which is about 16 percent of all the people at work. Mrs. Ellen S. Woodward, Assistant Administrator in charge of women's activities, will tell you more about this phase of the program.

**Mrs. Woodward:** Of course, Mr. Hopkins, women do not work on construction projects, but they do work on other things which are constructive. They send needy children, warmly clothed and decently fed, to occupy the schools which WPA constructs on roads which WPA builds. They furnish leadership to groups who play in the parks and the playgrounds which WPA develops. In other words, they work on useful projects, and through them valuable aid is rendered to communities in many ways. This is work which these women are used to doing. Eighty-five percent of them have had previous work experience. They now work on projects which help them to retain their old skills or develop new.



not only rural but urban  
through the road-build-  
street and grade crossings

have been eliminated; over 100,000 blocks of city  
streets and alleys have been paved; more than  
10,000 bridges have been constructed or repaired.

skills which make them more employable to industry. And if industry fails them the training they receive on the project helps them to use whatever resources they have to better advantage. I believe that we are all agreed that unless our work is translated into these human values it will not become permanent in the communities. These 400,000 women, just like the men, are the breadwinners of their families.

**Mrs. Brown:** I'm one of those women, Mrs. Woodward—may I ask you something?

**Mrs. Woodward:** Yes, indeed; what is your name?

**Mrs. Brown:** My name is Mrs. Anna Brown.

**Mrs. Woodward:** What is your question, Mrs. Brown?

**Mrs. Brown:** I want to know if I am going to keep my job?

**Mrs. Woodward:** Have you been at work on a WPA project?

**Mrs. Brown:** Yes; I have been working on a sewing project since 1934.

**Mrs. Woodward:** Have you any dependents?

**Mrs. Brown:** Yes; I have one daughter—24 years old—who has been sick in bed for 3 years with heart trouble.

**Mrs. Woodward:** What other source of income do you have?

**Mrs. Brown:** None. The \$45 a month which I earn is all I have, but it's enough to keep me going. I can pay my rent and have enough left to eat three meals a day, and to buy a little clothing and fuel, and pay some of my doctor's bills, too, and then I don't have to worry when I work. I hope I can keep my job.

**Mrs. Woodward:** I can well understand why you ask, "Will I keep my job?" You heard Mr. Holt say that the local relief authorities will decide just who is entitled to employment under the new program. I can say, however, that they will not dismiss any woman who is able and willing to work, and who has no other way to support her family. Does that answer your question, Mrs. Brown?

**Mrs. Brown:** It does, Mrs. Woodward.

**Mrs. Woodward:** Now I might sum this all up in a few words—that women cannot build roads, bridges, or airports, but through their work they do build better homes, better health, and better citizens.

**Mr. Hopkins:** All right, Mrs. Woodward. Now, here's Governor Earle of Pennsylvania. Glad to have you with us, Governor.

**Governor Earle:** I'm glad to be here, Mr. Hopkins, and to enter this discussion. I was interested in what you said about women eligible for WPA; but what about the women—and also the men—who are not eligible because they are supposed to be taken care of under the Social Security Program?



*Libraries, court houses, schools, and hospitals were badly neglected during the depression years. WPA workers have repaired or erected more than 13,000 of these public buildings.*

**Mr. Hopkins:** There is no more socially conscious Governor in the United States than Governor Earle. I am not surprised at his interest in this tremendously important question. Go right ahead, Governor Earle.

**Governor Earle:** The reason that WPA gives for not employing certain classes of people is that they are eligible for Social Security benefits. But at the present time, a particular State may not have passed pension laws.

**Mr. Hopkins:** I agree with you, Governor, but we have no general arbitrary ruling that people who might be included under Social Security legislation cannot work on our program. We leave that to the States. But we do say that people who work on our program should be people who in normal times would be supporting themselves on a job—not people who are in need because they are unable to work. Provision for these people is traditionally a State or local responsibility. The Federal Government recognized this when it provided through the Social Security Act to *aid* States and localities rather than to assume full responsibility for them. On the other hand unemployment is really a national problem, and

for that reason we have a Federal work program. But neither the work program nor the security program tells the whole story. We know that there is still need for direct relief. We do not feel that it is too much to ask the States and localities to meet this need.

**Governor Earle:** I agree with you fully that States and municipalities have got to do their part, not only on these programs but by making direct relief provisions for those who fall between. I feel very strongly, however, that unemployment is a national problem, and must be handled on a national scale. Only the Federal Government is capable of doing that.

**Mr. Williams:** Mr. Hopkins, you know I am interested in the questions that you have been discussing, but I am also concerned with the problem of American youth.

**Mr. Hopkins:** Very well, Mr. Williams. Ladies and gentlemen, the questioner is Mr. Aubrey Williams, Director of the National Youth Administration. Go ahead, Mr. Williams.

**Mr. Williams:** This young man with me is Willis Peck, a worker on a National Youth Administration project, and he would like to ask some questions.

**Mr. Hopkins:** All right, go ahead, Willis.

**Mr. Peck:** Well, Mr. Hopkins, am I, and the others like me who are working on recreation, construction, and other youth projects, going to be included under the new program you are talking about?

**Mr. Hopkins:** Mr. Williams can best answer that.

**Mr. Williams:** Under the provisions of the new Relief Act, we are planning to carry on the program of the National Youth Administration in much the same manner as we have been operating it this year.

**Mr. Peck:** Mr. Williams, I hope to go on to college next fall. Is there any chance for me to get help?

**Mr. Williams:** Yes. We plan to aid approximately the same number of college and high school students as we have given aid to this year.

**Mr. Peck:** Suppose I can't get to college even with student aid, what is there for me?

**Mr. Williams:** With regard to part-time jobs, we plan to provide about the same number of part-time jobs on work projects as last year. There is also the possibility of a job in private industry for you.

**Mr. Peck:** What are the chances that we will have in getting a steady job?

**Mr. Williams:** Much better. I think that the young people coming of age this year have a 50 percent better chance of getting jobs than they had three years ago.



**Mr. Peck:** Mr. Williams, I work one-third time and receive one-third the security wage. Is there anything you are doing or planning to do to help us young people do something worth while in our spare time?

**Mr. Williams:** Yes, there is. We now are carrying on many programs in cooperation with local agencies and organizations through which we are extending recreational opportunities and community activities open to all young people. Now I would like to ask you a question. What have you gained from your work under the NYA Work Project?

**Mr. Peck:** That is a fair question, Mr. Williams. Beside the money I have received, I have gained two things: First, the feeling of independence, and second, the ability to tell a prospective employer I have had a job. Employers always ask that, and I have never been able to say I have had a job. Now I can.

**Miss Hurst:** Mr. Hopkins, may I interrupt?

**Mr. Hopkins:** You most certainly can. Ladies and gentlemen, this is Miss Fannie Hurst, the noted author.



*WPA workers are carrying out 3,783 flood-control and other conservation projects. More than 2,700 communities have requested drainage projects to improve sanitation and health.*

**Miss Hurst:** Time is flying. I want to know what you intend to do for the professional.

**Mr. Hopkins:** Professional. You phrase that beautifully. Most people say boondogglers.

**Miss Hurst:** Ah, that particular cumbersome word which seems to have been coined with a yowl of delight by the American public. According to its definition, Mr. Shakespeare, Mr. Longfellow, and Mr. Gorki were boondogglers. And think how the DeMedici family and the great patrons of European culture encouraged boondogglers! Michelangelo, I suppose, is one of the fathers of boondoggling.

**Mr. Hopkins:** Wait a minute—not so fast. Trying to keep professional people at the work they spent a lifetime to learn has gotten us in more hot water than everything else put together.

**Miss Hurst:** That is obviously because artists in general, writers in particular, cannot be easily regimented. And if I must say so, Mr. Hopkins, since it is almost impossible to get an author to go on relief, your well-intentioned artist's project, tying up the professional's eligibility for WPA work with the length of time he has been on relief, has further knotted the knotty question, although I note with enthusiasm that you are to correct that.

**Mr. Hopkins:** We've had our problems with all of them.

**Miss Hurst:** The so-called creative mind is as highly individualized as the steel puddler's, or the mechanical engineer's.

**Mr. Hopkins:** Oh, come now, Miss Hurst, personal psychologies are immensely important, but emergency pressure is scarcely the time to try to cope with them.

**Miss Hurst:** I disagree. Results are what you want. You can lead the average steel puddler to the etcher's plate, but you cannot make him etch. The same applies to that queer bird known as the creative artist. I refer in this case to the writer. Under maladjustment, he merely becomes queerer. The artist in general can stand a great deal of punishment. Generations of starving in a garret have inured him to that bitter indoor sport of pulling in his belt. But by providing the type of employment for the financially crippled author which WPA is doing; that is, work more or less akin to his craft, you are certainly reducing his chances for having to punch more holes into his belt. In spite of the flow of amiability which characterizes this pleasant occasion, I must take occasion to state, however, that there is still much to be desired in alleviating the dilemma of the professional.

**Mr. Hopkins:** Ways and means of further alleviating those dilemmas is the point of our discussion here today.



*To promote health through recreation and the constructive use of leisure time, WPA workers have built or improved 5,722 parks, playgrounds, and athletic fields and have made available to the public 598 tennis courts, 2,936 swimming pools, and 309 golf courses.*

**Miss Hurst:** Now take writers. With the best intentions in the world, I cannot go so far as to say that compiling guide books is the average author's dream. But at the same time, neither is boiling down old manuscript, ink erasers, and rejection slips, the ideal stew to keep literary body and soul together. If getting the unemployed writer to work, not at rolling cigars, but cataloging the points of interest of this uncataloged land of ours be boondoggling, then I hereby start a boon for doggling.

**Mr. Hopkins:** Just one more point. The theater?

**Miss Hurst:** In the theater, I would like to say in no uncertain terms to those who indulgently regard all these cultural projects of the Administration as pleasant, innocuous, and boondoggling overtones to our economic crisis, that new oxygen is being pumped into the entire institution of the American theater by WPA.

In years to come, this era of ours may be chiefly remembered because of the fact that it assisted at the cultural birth of a nation.

Plays are being written by Americans, produced by Americans, acted by Americans, and seen by Americans in a manner without precedent.

**Mr. Hopkins:** I'm glad to hear you touch upon this aspect of our imported culture. Up to now, too much in our art has been something the American has not created. Something he does not understand. Take painting. For the first time that I know anything about, artists have really begun to interpret the American scene.

**Miss Hurst:** Exactly. So what with our artists doing murals that stem from American soil rather than Italian primitives, our painters remaining at home to catch us in the act of being ourselves rather than sitting about the galleries of Europe studying how Rembrandt and Millet interpreted their respective countries, it would seem, Mr. Hopkins, that WPA cultural projects have started something perhaps almost too big for us to realize as we sit here.

**Mr. Hopkins:** Thank you, Miss Hurst, we do intend to go on with these projects.

I want those of you who are members of the WPA staff, wherever you may be, to know how greatly I appreciate the fine service you are rendering to the Government and to the unemployed. No Government activity can be any better than the men and women who manage it. You have been given a great responsibility for the expenditure of large sums of public moneys. We trust in your integrity and your devotion to this program. In the counties, cities, and towns of this land, you are the ones who, by your action day by day, bring to this Government activity not only a sense of achievement but of a public trust faithfully discharged.

The Nation has a perfect right to expect this type of service from its employees. I know you are discharging that trust faithfully, ungrudgingly, and effectively.

To the thousands of unemployed men and women who are part of this great enterprise, and who are working on the 90,000 WPA projects throughout the country, I am glad to say that we are going to continue this Works Program. We consider that American citizens who are unemployed through no fault of their own are entitled—not to a benefit under the guise of charity—but to a job given by the Government. We believe the Nation has a responsibility to provide opportunities for real work to those who through no fault of their own cannot find a job.

I know that you must find great satisfaction in building schools, roads, great public parks, and a myriad of other projects which add to the wealth of the local community. These projects belong to your town and city. This product of your labor becomes the property of all of the people forever.

We know you will continue to do an honest day's work in return for wages. We who have the responsibility for the management, promise in

turn to administer this program sympathetically, with a genuine understanding of your needs and a deep conviction that all you ask is an opportunity to earn your living honorably.

We go forward into the next year with you, determined to improve our work and to keep faith with the American people who through their Congress have made this program possible

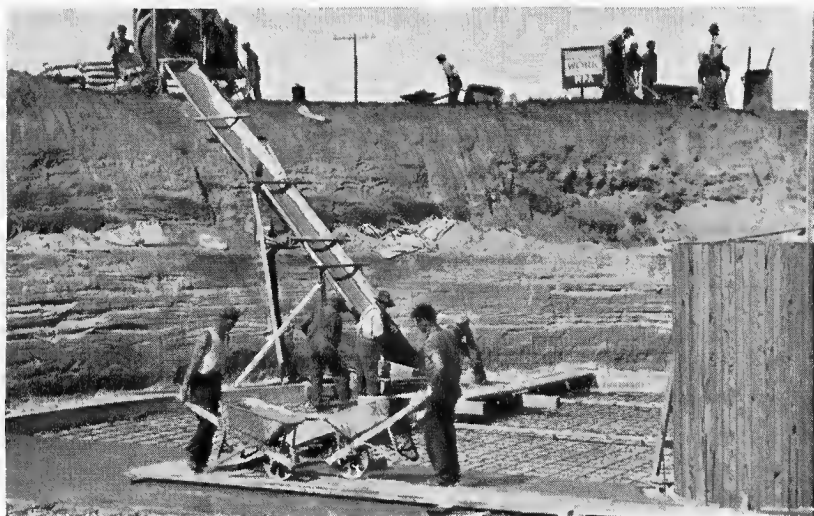
On behalf of the President I wish to thank you—whether you may be an administrative employee or a worker on the project—for your earnest cooperation in making the program the success it is.



*WPA has not only provided clinics, visiting nurse service, and hospitalization for poor families, but it has penetrated rural sections by establishing ambulance service which brings patients to medical centers for treatments. Thousands of persons have received inoculations against contagious diseases in all parts of the country.*



*Above: Through clerical projects, WPA has given assistance to State, county, and city governmental offices in the checking, compilation, and preservation of valuable records. Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been saved by the checking of tax records by WPA workers. Below: Projects for the extension and improvement of about 5,000 sewer systems as well as 2,500 water systems have been selected for operation by WPA. Here is a modern sewage-disposal plant being erected for the town of Sparta, Michigan.*



*Cooperation of these stations in the  
broadcast of the WPA Staff Meeting is  
gratefully acknowledged:*

W A P I	W B E N
K T A R	W W N C
K T H S	W S O C
K P O	W P T F
K F I	W D A Y
K O A	K F Y R
W T I C	W L W
W J A X	W T A M
W F L A	K V O O
W I O D	W K Y
W S B	K G W
W M A Q	K Y W
W H O	W C A E
W C K Y	W J A R
W A V E	W I S
W S M B	W F B C
K T B S	W C S C
W C S H	W S M
W F B R	W M C
W E E I	W F A A
W T A G	K P R C
K S T P	W O A I
W J D X	K D Y L
K S D	W R V A
W D A F	W T A R
K G I R	K O M O
K G H L	K H Q
W O W	W T M J
W E A F	W I B A
W G Y	W E B C

W R C

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